



Winter Term 2026

**Age of Discovery or the Age of Genocide: How the doctrine of discovery works today.
Draft Syllabus (subject to change)**

Canterbury College Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge that Canterbury College resides on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie.

Course Dates & Times: Saturdays

April 18, May 2, May 16 2026
from 10am to 4:30 pm EDT

Delivery: Hosted via Zoom

Instructor: Esentsei Staats Pangowish

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Course Description

This course will examine the doctrine of discovery and how its use continues to impact Indigenous nations, peoples and communities across Turtle Island (commonly referred to as Canada). We will be reading and discussing the doctrine, case law, and their connection to the issues that Indigenous nations and people face today.

Course Materials

Required Texts

The screenshot displays the GoodMinds.com website interface. At the top, the logo for GoodMinds.com is visible, along with the tagline 'First Nations, Métis, Inuit Books' and 'Bound to Impress'. A search bar is present, and navigation links for 'Login / Signup' and 'My account' are available. Below the header, a navigation menu lists categories such as Books, Children, Teen, Adult, Educators, Languages, Resources, More, Gifts, Planners & More, and Gift Cards. The main content area shows the product page for 'Pagans in the Promised Land' by Steven T. Newcomb. The book cover features a dark, silhouetted tree against a light background, with the title 'Pagans in the Promised Land' in white and red text. The subtitle 'Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery' and the author's name 'Steven T. Newcomb' are also visible on the cover. To the right of the cover, the product details are listed: Author: Steven T. Newcomb, Grade Levels: College, University, Nation: Multiple Nations, Book Type: Paperback, Pages: 186, Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing, and Copyright Date: 2008. The price is \$26.95, and the quantity is set to 1. There are buttons for 'Add to cart', 'Buy with Apple Pay', and 'Add to Wishlist'. A link for 'More payment options' is also present.

Home > All products > Pagans in the Promised Land

Pagans in the Promised Land

SKU: 9781555916428

Author: Steven T. Newcomb
Grade Levels: College, University
Nation: Multiple Nations
Book Type: Paperback
Pages: 186
Publisher: Fulcrum Publishing
Copyright Date: 2008

Price: **\$26.95**

Quantity:

[Add to cart](#) [Buy with Apple Pay](#) [More payment options](#)

[Add to Wishlist](#)

Additional required readings are available via links provided in the syllabus.

Assignments:

Why are you here?

10%

This is meant for a student to answer the question “Why are you here?” Why this course, and what are you hoping to leave this course with? As the instruction is coming from an Haudenosaunee-Anishnabwe worldview students who are expected to use this assignment as an introduction with the same layout (this will be discussed in our first class).

- 2 pages max
- Single Spaced
- No outside resources required.
- Answer the following questions:
 - Where are you from?
 - Who are your people?
 - What nation/clan are you from?
 - What is your relation to that land?
 - Why are you taking this course?
 - What are you hoping to learn from this course?

Reflection Journal

20%

This journal is a way for students to express their views on the readings and discussions they have completed so far in the course. This is not a research paper; students are expected to include references to the course content in discussing the impact the content has had.

- 3 pages max
- Single spaced
- No outside resources

A Plan & Art

30%

This combined assignment provides an opportunity for students to discuss their vision of the future. The plan will be the student’s way to step forward. A student’s art piece will be the vision for your plan to play out. We will be reviewing Kent Monkman’s art to examine how an Indigenous artist has depicted past relationships between Indigenous people and the colonial state’s policies.

- Plan: 2 pages max
 - Single spaced

- Aim of the plan: How do we (settlers/state/churches) move forward with Indigenous nations/people/communities within the next 5 years?
- Art: 1 page
 - The artwork should be an original creation of the student
 - The artwork can be digital, hand-drawn, or painted, etc.
 - This artwork should convey what your plan will accomplish.

Speech
40%

You have been selected to present a speech at the upcoming Indigenous Chiefs Council meeting. The topic of discussion is reconciliation. Your speech will be written about your commitment to reconciliation.

- Speech will be 5 pages max.
- Course content is required for the speech.
- Can bring in some outside content.

It is due on **May 25, at midnight**, unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Date:	Class:	DUE DATES Assignments:
April 18	What to read before class: Pagans in the Promised land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (Steven T Newcomb) Chapters: 1-6	10% Why are you here? (Apr 25)
May 2	What to read before class: Pagans in the Promised land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (Steven T Newcomb) Chapters: 7-Conclusion What to read before class: The Impact of St. Catherine's Milling Karen Drake https://digitalcommons.osgoode.yorku.ca/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3684&context=scholarly_works	20% Reflection Journal (May 2) 30% Reflection Journal with Art (May 9)
	What to read before class:	40% Speech (May 25)

May 16	<p>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</p> <p>The challenge of reconciliation Pages: 183- 251 https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf</p> <p>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</p> <p>The challenge of reconciliation Pages: 252-319 https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf</p>	
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Grade Descriptors

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Statement on the Recording of Class Activities

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.